NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

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Roxane Romanick: A Champion for Families and Children with Disabilities Receives National Recognition by Federal Agency

BISMARCK, N.D. – Roxane Romanick was recognized in a national article as a *Champion for Families in North Dakota* by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for her over 10 years of dedicated work and support to children with developmental disabilities and their families. The article is online at http://www.cdc.gov/NCBDDD/actearly/partners/spotlight-archives/spotlight_RoxaneRomanick.html.

Romanick is a family liaison for the N.D. Department of Human Services' Developmental Disabilities Division - Early Intervention Program through a contract with Northern Plains Special Education Unit in Crosby, N.D. In addition, Romanick provides consultation as a parent to the program. She works one-on-one with families to help connect them to available community resources that benefit children with disabilities. She also coordinates the North Dakota Interagency Coordinating Council, which advises the department and assists in efforts to effectively implement services for children with disabilities and for at-risk children ages birth through five.

"As a parent of a child with a disability, Roxane understands first-hand the importance of having a strong support system," said Tina Bay, the department's Developmental Disabilities Division director. "She is a tremendous advocate, and her experience and input have helped shape services and supports in our state for children with disabilities and their families."

Romanick was nominated for this national recognition by a Bismarck parent whose family benefited from her experience in child development and early intervention.

Information on services and support for children with disabilities and their families is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/earlyintervention/index.html and is also available by calling 1-701-328-8930, 1-800-755-8529, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888 or dhsds@nd.gov.